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MIND OF A CHILD

SHI MOHAN'S IMAGES FROM SURREAL WORLD
OF SOFT COLORS AND DREAMLIKE TONES IS
HER MEDITATION ON SIX CORE IDEAS. **P.4**



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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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FEATURE



Photo from venusvapor

Vaping on the Rise in China

BY WANG YAN

2015 was a busy year for 25-year-old Pan Wei-ren's chain of vaping supply shop. Earlier this year, his e-cigarette shop and bar Mr. Vapor opened a fifth location in Wangjing, a busy neighborhood in Chaoyang district.

Pan got into vaping while he was studying abroad in California. But it wasn't to wean himself off cigarettes. Pan remains a dedicated smoker who sees vaping as a lifestyle choice and hobby.

"I like the design of the vape pens, and I like to get creative when mixing my own vape juice," Pan said.

Like many vape store owners in China, Pan got his start by selling vape pens and juice on Taobao. He also exported Chinese-made vape pen to the US.

"The US is probably the world's largest market for vaping. But young Chinese are very open to new things too. So I started selling [e-cigarettes] to my friends and the product was received very well. Then I opened a store on Taobao."

Pan opened his first store by Ritan Park in 2014.

World's Leading Producer

Hon Lik, a Chinese pharmacist, is considered the father of modern vaping. About a decade ago he invented the first EGO style vaporizer to help himself quit smoking. Today China is the world's leading manufacturer of vaporizing products. The industrial city of Shenzhen is widely considered to be the center of the entire vape pen supply chain. Its factories there produce the entire spectrum of products from cigalikes to high wattage box mods.

Although China has the world's largest smoking population, with an estimated 300 million daily smokers, vaping is still an

uncommon practice – even in first-tier cities like Beijing and Shanghai. In 2012, China smoked a total of 2.4 trillion cigarettes: – roughly 5 cigarettes per person per day.

But with rising public awareness about the hazards of smoking and the Chinese government's hardening stance on smoking in public, more and more people are thinking about switching from smoking to vaping.

Last year, after years of aborted attempts, Beijing banned public smoking and increased the consumption tax on wholesale cigarettes from 5 percent to 11 percent. Li Baosheng, general manager of e-cigarette maker Smoore, told Reuters that the harsher control of tobacco is great news for e-cigarettes, adding that lax smoking rules had previously slowed the country's vaping business.

"My sales have been increasing on Taobao," Pan said. "Roughly, I see 800 more customers each month." Indeed, even a tiny portion of the 300 million daily smokers would offer an attractive prize for China's domestic market.

International traders also showed an interest in China's e-cigarette market. According to CECMOL, China's largest platform for e-cigarettes, the British tobacco company Imperial Tobacco Group has already registered to attend the third VapeExpo this April in Shenzhen. As a traditional tobacco company, Imperial has been showing interest in e-cigarettes. Last February the company created e-cigarette brand JAI; it acquired popular e-cig brand Blu later in the year.

Analysts are also optimistic about China's vaping market.

"China won't be able to become a kind of ghetto of tobacco, so there will have to be some movement towards an alternative," Shane MacGuill, London-based tobacco ana-



Pan and his friends at Mr. Vapor

lyst at Euromonitor told Reuters.

However, current tobacco sales in China are largely governed by state monopolies. Tobacco imports made up less than 1 percent of China's tobacco industry in 2012, according to Euromonitor. E-cigarettes might offer an alternative way for international companies to enter China, but to what extent the government is willing to promote the e-cigarettes and to what extent it will allow outsiders to play in the China market remains unclear.

"It will happen, but it will take longer," MacGuill told Reuters.

Health Concerns

Most of Pan's customers are young Chinese males between 20 to 35. A lot of them learn about vaping because they want to quit smoking. Vape juice comes in many varieties: some contain zero nicotine, some contain 6 milligrams and some contain more; customers can choose the amount of nicotine based on their preference.

For non-smokers who decide to vape,

the effects of inhaling vape juices are also under-explored. Last year, a San Diego-based researcher published a study in the journal *Oral Oncology*, arguing that vaping may be "no better" than regular cigarettes. The scientists treated cells in petri dishes with vapor from a nicotine-based e-cigarette and a nicotine-free e-cigarette and found that the cells exposed to either vapor were more likely to become damaged or die than those that had not.

Prior to that research, a study by the Harvard School of Public Health found the artificial flavorings used in e-cigarettes also contained harmful chemicals. However, to what extent these chemicals damage cells and to what extent they may cause disease remains unclear.

The unclarified health risks and contradictory media coverage about e-cigarettes have made it hard for the government to regulate the industry. China currently has no regulations on vaping.

The majority of US states and most of Europe countries have banned minors from using e-cigarettes. The US Food and Drug Administration tried to regulate e-cigarettes in early 2014 and received more than 100,000 public comments on their proposed rules, which today are awaiting final action from the Office of Management and Budget.

Small business owners in US are under pressure because the rules would require federal approval for most flavored liquid nicotine juices and e-cigarette devices sold in shops. George Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, an advocacy group, told *Fortune* that it might affect 8,000 to 12,000 vape shops in the US and the estimated 1,000 manufacturers and wholesalers of vaping equipment.

While US departments are taking time to make the tough decision, China's regulations seem in flux. "I think China will just follow US or Europe policies," Pan said.

"Most of the people in China's industry are small business owners. There are not many giants in the e-cig business," Pan said. The young entrepreneur owns 11 vape stores across the country and he is the supplier for many other vape businesses.

For Pan, vaping is not just business. "In my eyes, vaping is a lifestyle and a tool for young Chinese to find likeminded friends. China is developing too fast: people need to slow down and enjoy life," Pan said. ■

MUSIC



Photos by Mizang

Mizang Sings Chinese Blues

BY DIAO DIAO



It's not that China doesn't get the blues: it's just not known for singing it. But Mizang is out to change that.

Founded in an old Beijing alley in the winter of 2001, Mizang began as a project of lead singer Han Yu and his friends. In the years since, the band has picked up guitarist Wei Wei, a student of the Stevie Ray Vaughan school of string raking, seasoned bassist Wang Zheng and drummer Liu Lingchuan, who has been active in the scene since 1994.

Mizang settled on blues and old rock almost as soon as they got the idea to start a band. The name was picked on impulse because of its "cool sound," but as the members began using it they found it carried a bit of Eastern mystique.

In spite of being a Chinese blues band, Mizang's roots clearly lie in American blues of the 1950s and 1960s, when the genre developed a clear character.

"A lot of Chinese listeners used to complain that they didn't like blues or rock because they couldn't understand what the musicians were saying. We wanted to write Chinese

blues that they could accept," Wei Wei says.

But adapting blues music and lyrical styles to the Chinese language is no small challenge.

Playing blues in Chinese requires finding a perfect match between melody and the lyrics. "We have to consider whether the lyrics and melody sound comfortable and expresses the right feeling, and that's the most difficult thing to test," Wei Wei says. "Sometimes we come up with beautiful lyrics, but when we put them together with the melody they come out strange."

That challenge is one of the main reasons there are so few Chinese blues bands.

Looking back, Wei Wei says it's hard to imagine how a group of 20-something men who grew up on Hong Kong and Taiwanese pop went from buying their first Hongmian guitar to becoming mature musicians.

Wei Wei and other band members are nearing middle age and began their musical journey at a time when parents were absolutely opposed to such pursuits. He recalls years of battles while fighting for

his right to self-determination; he blames his parents' stubbornness on having never been exposed to foreign music.

Another reason his parents were so opposed was because of his terrible academic performance.

Wei Wei describes himself as "the kind of student that hates reading and understandings textbooks." But lackluster school performance did little to quash his dreams and confidence. "One of my friends dropped out in middle school, but he liked reading and read voraciously. Today he's a playwright and an actor," Wei Wei says.

His own talent and interest was in music.

But Wei Wei turned away from formal music education, afraid that volumes of theory and memorization might diminish his love for the art.

"I think it comes down to this: schools only have one way to teach, but people have many different ways to learn. For me, I prefer figuring things out on my own," Wei says.

But as an old Beijing band, Mizang has trouble securing performances. "It's not easy for a band to constantly find new and fresh ideas. If there's one that suddenly generates a lot of attention, it's usually a short-lived gimmick," Wei says. "There's also a need to make connections in the indie circle, which can end up taking even more time than developing music."

It doesn't help that the city with the most opportunities for musicians – Beijing – also has the country's most notoriously fickle listeners.

Mizang said many of his friends only play, at most, three concerts in Beijing. The more often they perform, the fewer listeners they can attract. And an empty venue is the death knell for any band.

Wei Wei and the band are using crowdfunding to raise the money for their next album. ■

site.douban.com/mizang

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Saycet @ DDC Club

Saycet is an electronic band from Paris. Their first album, *One Day at Home*, was one of the best dreamy and soft electronic music releases of the year. Phoebe Som-savath, the Asian vocalist on the second album *Through the Window*, won the band many international fans. Saycet is bringing its new album *Mirage* to Beijing.

☉ March 25, 9-10:30 pm

📍 14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng

💎 100 yuan (pre sale), 120 yuan (at door)

Epica @ Yugong Yishan

Epica was founded in 2002 by guitarist Mark Jansen, keyboard player Coen Janssen and vocalist Simone Simons. Their name comes from the album *Epica*, released in 2003 by Kamelot, an American metal band. Epica's first two albums, *The Phantom Agony* and *Consign to Oblivion*, won the band many fans. Epica is bringing its 2014 album *The Quantum Enigma* to Chinese audiences on this tour.

☉ March 25, 8:30-11 pm

📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

💎 280 yuan (pre sale), 360 yuan (at door)

Wu Ningyue @ Slow Living

Wu Ningyue is an interesting singer with unusual ideas. Wu sings the praises of extramarital affairs and homelessness in a world that insists on an opposite. Music may have the power to conquer all, but nothing can conquer Wu's heart.

☉ March 25, 8:30-11:30 pm

📍 73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng

💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)



Luoer @ Jianghu Bar

Singer-songwriter Luoer ties together weird ideas and tiny little happiness in her original songs. After Luoer appeared on the *Sing My Song* singing competition, she released her first album *Big Universe, Small Happiness*. She is currently touring in support of the release.

☉ March 25, 9-11:30 pm

📍 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng

💎 60 yuan (pre sale)



ARTISTS



20xx

*The Palace of Memory**Parasitism*

If I had to pick one work that represents me, I guess it would be *Cute Bear and the Secret Garden*. I feel like I'm still a child deep inside my heart," says Shi Mohan, a 33-year-old female artist from Shenyang, Liaoning province.

For viewers who first encounter Shi's work online. The soft colors and dreamlike tones are extremely distinctive. However, beneath that fairytale brushwork is a world of philosophy and introspection. On her website, Shi summarizes her work in six words: innocence, self-reflection, desire, ignorance, obsession and curiosity.

"I always have a strong feeling of wanting to possess weird, strange things in life. If I find a green pear with brown spots in the market, I'll end up adding it my unfinished works instead of eating it," Shi says.

"*Parasitism* shows a girl with a deadly plant growing inside her body. Seduced by the plant, the girl and the fly on her body are enchanted by desire. The mantis located far off in the picture represents introspection," Shi says. "I purposefully avoid any attempts to control my desires, but sometime people need to think about what they are doing or else they will go too deep into temptation."

For images of peace, Shi conjures up the night sky. Its shining stars and galaxies are the backdrop of many of her paintings, such as *The Chaos and the Cosmos* and *Wild*. The night sky also represents her ideas about mankind and environment.

"The night sky itself is inspiring. Sometimes I simply feel an urge to jump out of my familiar surroundings and imagine life beyond Earth," she says.

A similar philosophical motif is seen in the human figures in her works. Inspired by everyday encounters, Shi's figures appear with abnormally pale skin, round faces and lively, limpid eyes. They are a tool with which she projects her inner world.

In *The Shapes of Memory*, Shi uses a little girl with sunglasses as the stage for a show conjured out of memory. In contrast to the drowsy look on the girl's face, a series of cubes, pyramids and other polyhedrons float on a thin, purple background. Those varying shapes stand in for different phases of human memory.

*Watching Dreams*

"In the beginning of life, memories are simple, like a couple of straight lines. When we enter adolescence, sharp, complicated and rebellious memories take over our lives. And by adulthood, memory shatters and becomes hard to view in one cohesive shape," Shi says.

Although unsure about the future of her work, Shi continues to paint to keep a record of her life. "My paintings are the proof I was here. Unfortunately, I have yet to make one that I find really satisfying."

Shi says inspiration comes when her mind is active, so she keeps herself busy by watching films and reading books. It often takes longer to find an idea than to bring it to creation.

She is currently focused on watercolor sketches, and her early experiments in the medium are available on her website. Watercolors have been a non-toxic creative outlet for her work during pregnancy.

"Art is too interesting for me to even imagine what other occupation I could ever have. It's a career that leads you into a lot of hardships from time to time, and sometimes I hesitate about whether I chose the right path. But as time passes I think I'm becoming more determined," she says. ■

(Karen Hu is an intern at Beijing Today.)

Fairytale Brushwork Inspired by Six Words

BY KARENA HU

*Season Gallery**Invasion**Shi Mohan*

artand.cn/middle

A TRAVEL

Lost in the Stores

BY WANG YAN

The capital is warming up, and the long and dirty winter may be nearing its end. It's time to get out of the house and enjoy Beijing's sweet but short spring.

Beijing is light on impressive scenery, but what it lacks in visual beauty it makes up in history. The old hutong neighborhoods are probably the most famous thing about Beijing. Not only have the narrow alleys witnessed many of China's historical events, there also house an assortment of creative stores.



Change

As its name suggests, this store is all about "change." Unlike conventional stores, Change allows customers to pay by barter. It's been ages since the owner Robin had to actually purchase new inventory.

The store is small but filled with all manner of goods, from makeup to clothing, to accessories and home appliances. There are also lots of tourist souvenirs brought back by customer from abroad: some pieces have traveled from South Africa, Mongolia, the US and the Netherlands.

Robin said the store is intended to help people learn to cherish what they have. Its shoppers believe that exchanging goods can help you to gradually transform your life.

➔ 67 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng



Photos from visitbeijing



Brandnu

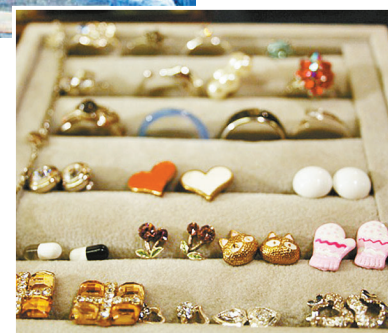
Brandnu was opened in 2008 by Xiangzi, who lived in Canada for more than 10 years.

At first the store sold handmade accessories and second-hand clothing. But three years into the business, Xiangzi realized the model wasn't working. In 2011, Brandnu started to collaborate with Beijing Gongyou Zhijia, a non-profit organization serving migrant workers.

Xiangzi took the charity clothing from the organization and hired local migrant workers to tear up the fabric. Xiangzi then contacted several indie designers and hired them to design creative clothing and handbags with the scraps.

Most of the shop's products cost 1,000 yuan, and 5 percent of each sale is donated to the city's migrant workers.

➔ 61 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng



Photos from visitbeijing



Photos from sina.com



Panda House

If you have ever been to the famous Nanluogu Xiang, you probably saw this store. As its name suggests, the store only sells panda-shaped goods: from hats, to T-shirts, to rings and bags. Every item either has a panda or is a panda. If you are a panda fan, don't miss out.

➔ 10 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

Panda Slow Mail

Have you ever wanted to send a letter to your future self Or to receive a letter from a younger you? Panda slow mail can make it happen: kind of.

Located in 798 factory, the city's most famous art zone, Panda Slow Mail helps you send a letter to the future. Customers can choose the date they want to receive the letter. Imagine, 10 years later you receive a letter from 10 years before. Maybe the letter will surprise you with happiness or make you cringe. Either way, it's a fun and interesting experience.

➔ D District, Zhong'er Jie, 798 Art Zone, Chaoyang



Photos from baidu



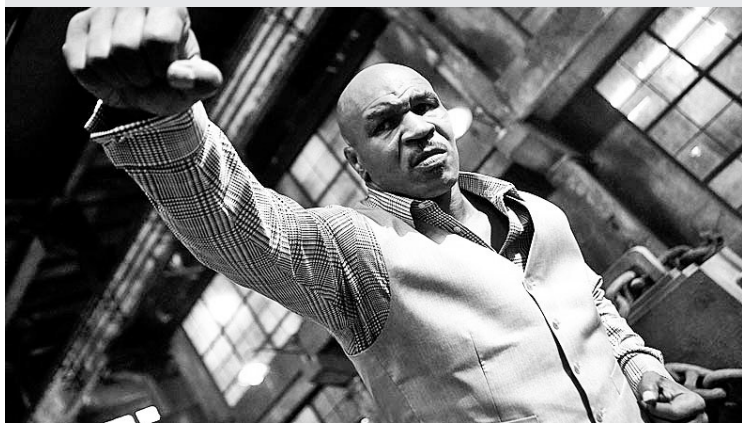


ENTERTAINMENT



Ip Man 3 Delivers on Action

BY DIAO DIAO



Since Bruce Lee's ascent to worldwide stardom, a number of Chinese action movie stars have built their careers on kung fu.

While the little dragon is credited with having brought real martial arts to Chinese action cinema, the one who brought martial arts to Lee escaped popular attention until the 2008 biopic film *Ip Man*.

The *Ip Man* film series, the third entry of which arrived on March 4, tells the story of Wing Chun master Yip Man.

The first film presents Yip as a

then unknown young man with powerful kung fu who brings fame to Wing Chun with his victory over Kam Shan-chu, a northern kung fu master who defeated all the masters in Foshan, Guangdong province.

Encouraged by his wife Cheung Wing-sing, Yip accepts the challenge and defeats Kam, solidifying Wing Chun's reputation.

Yip's victory attracts the attention of Japanese kung fu enthusiast Miura, who killed Yip's friend in a fight. Miura asks Yip to teach Wing Chun to the Japanese soldiers, but Yip refuses. After a fierce fight, he flees to Hong Kong with the help of his friends to avoid Miura's revenge.

The second film, released in 2010, tells the story of Yip's life in Hong Kong. Yip opens kung fu school and takes in students to make a living. Wong Leung, his first student, goes on to win many competitions with other local kung fu schools.

Wing Chun's rising reputation throws the two into a conflict with Hung Chun-nam, a Hung Ga kung fu master. During their battle,

British colonial forces arrive. Yip and Hung are forced to team up to confront the colonial government.

The latest film shows an older Yip, who steps in to defend his son's school, tackles an abusive factory boss and who cares for his wife, now dying of cancer. Yip even surrenders a challenge from Cheung Tin-chi, a Wing Chun fighter after his title.

Although the new film is ostensibly about a conflict between Wing Chun masters, *Ip Man 3* fails to build any drama. The main attention is its expertly choreographed kung fu scenes.

Donnie Yen, who returns for a third time as Yip, was born in a kung fu family and learned martial arts from a young age. Zhang Jin, who plays Cheung Tin-chi, is also a well known Chinese kung fu fighter.

The film includes an appearance by American boxer Mike Tyson. His three-minute fight between Yip and the fight between Yip and Cheung represent some of the best fight choreography to ever grace the big screen, according to reviewers. ■

Korea's Go Master Shares his Story

BY DIAO DIAO

The stunning defeat of Go champion Lee Sedol by Google's AlphaGo made headlines around the world last week.

The champion and the computer faced off on March 9, with Lee losing his first three matches. Lee managed one victory during the fourth match on March 13, but he was trounced again by the machine in their final meeting on March 15.

The match has brought attention to both Lee and his autobiography, *Against the War*:

The Autobiography of Lee Sedol.

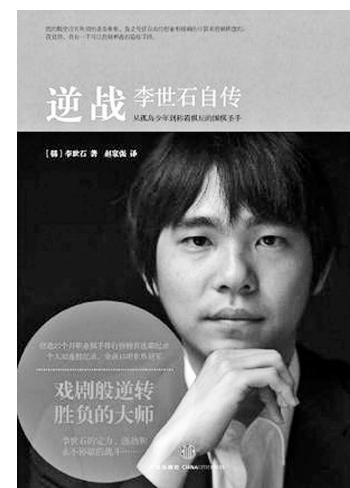
Lee is regarded as the greatest Go player both in Korea and worldwide. His professional record includes 27 months of constant victories, and his personal record includes a 32-game winning streak and 15 world championships.

His autobiography recalls many life experience that lead him to Go, including how he took an interest in the game, his family and his thoughts on Go after

decades of play.

While literary critics may berate Lee's blunt language, his words are humorous and often self-deprecating as he discusses his attitude toward Go rather than his game technique.

While Lee may have lost to AlphaGo, that doesn't mean humans have lost to machines, Lee said. He said he expects that another player will be able to identify and exploit the machine's weakness. ■



Photos by douban.com

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

DINING



Bubbly Easter Sunday Brunch at Factory

Enjoy Chef Camila Betin's delicious, balanced and indulgent Easter Sunday Brunch at Factory. Add endless bubbly and beer for a true celebration. Enjoy the fresh snow, cool mountain air and breathtaking scenery of Yanqi Island!

- ⌚ 11:30 am – 3:30 pm, March 27
- 📍 Factory (by Salt), Factory A1 North, 797 Zhong Jie, 798 Art Zone A, 2 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang
- 💎 2 courses 180 yuan; 3 courses 240 yuan; 100 yuan for 2 hours of unlimited bubbly or beer

NIGHTLIFE



4Corners Pub Quiz Tuesday

The 4Corners Pub Quiz is a weekly international bar trivia contest. Every Tuesday from 8-10:30 pm, veteran host Matthew Jacobs presents five challenging rounds of trivia on different topics. Come early for happy hour and try to solve the pre-game question for an extra point.

Prizes are awarded each round. You can win shots, drinks, food and dessert.

Stay for a special trivia challenge at the end of the quiz for a chance to win something.

First prize is a bottle of liquor or wine. If you win, you can celebrate by drinking into the night. Don't worry. If you don't finish you can take it home.

Pizza is buy one-get-one-free throughout the quiz, but the full menu is also available. Slow boat is on tap, amazing craft cocktails made to order, and drink specials are available into the night.

- ⌚ 8-11:30 pm, multiple dates
- 📍 4corners, 27 Dashibei Hutong, Xicheng (near west end of Yandai Xie Jie)



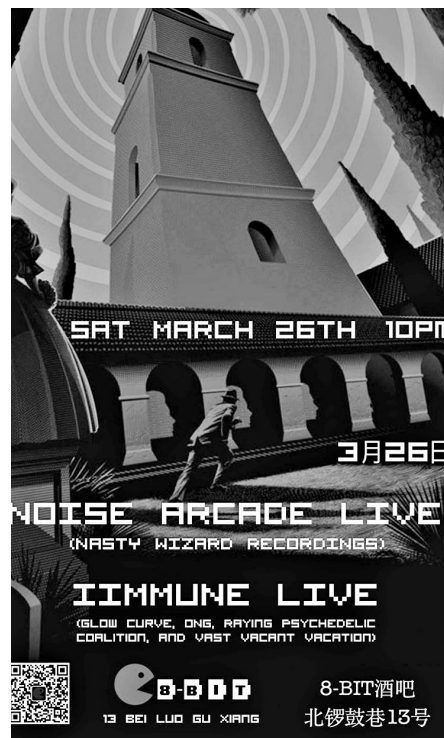
The Night Crawler

The Nightcrawler is pure Chicago blues. The members come from around the globe with globetrottingsinger and guitarist Eric, guitarist is Zhang Ling, and vocalist and drummer Thomas Wilson from Chicago, a former collaborator with B.B. King and Buddy Guy.

The harmonica player is Zhang Xiaosong, China's first harmonica blues master. Guitarist Weiwei and bass player Wangzheng came from Mizang Band. The band has developed a super harmonious atmosphere after many years together.

- ⌚ When: 9:30 pm – 11:30 pm, March 30
- 📍 Salud, 66 Nanluogu Xiang Dongcheng

MUSIC



IIMMUNE and Noise Arcade live

Join 8-BIT on March 26 for a night of electronic wizardry from IIMMUNE and Noise Arcade.

IIMMUNE is an electronic musician and guitarist from Tianshui, Gansu province. In addition to performing and producing music, he is a member of Glow Curve, ONG, Raying Psychedelic Coalition and Vast Vacant Vacation.

Noise Arcade is a Beijing-based electronic act. Its musical styles range from ambient and EDM, to more experimental music. This year, Noise Arcade is touring China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore with album releases under Metaphysical Circuits in Denmark, Noise Mongers in Malaysia and KTR and Nasty Wizards Recordings in Beijing.

- ⌚ 10 pm – 2 am, March 26
- 📍 8-BIT, 13 Beiluogu Xiang, Dongcheng
- 🔗 noisearcade.bandcamp.com



Spring Re-Lapse Festival

This holiday season, Four Seasons Market and Live Beijing Music team up for a two-day extravaganza of music, food and entrepreneurship. From 4 pm, DDC will be converted into a bazaar featuring a host of young entrepreneurs selling design and vintage goods, prints, food and snacks and various other treasures.

Afterward, Live Beijing Music will host two riotous evenings of music. Evening one gets heavy and atmospheric with the ethereal electro rock outfit Cassette, instrumental heavyweights Sound Remains, post punk veterans Streets Kill Strange Animals, emo tainted math rock trope Social Boar and shoegaze noise rockers Boiled Hippo.

Evening two hosts some of indie rock's finest including britpop sensations Elenore, seminal indie poppers Children's Cinema, visceral trip hop rock outfit Wusuozaiz, Me Guan Me and post rock serenades SNSOS. Stock up on the hippest crafts, feast on the city's freshest bites, and indulge in the sweet sweet sounds of rock and roll, cause it's time for Spring Re-Lapse!

- ⌚ 4 pm – midnight, April 2
- 📍 DDC, 14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng
- 💎 50 yuan (presale); 60 yuan (at door)

ART



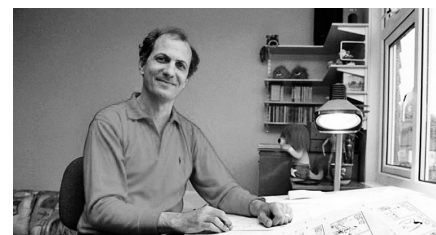
All Means Are Sacred

As its spring exhibition, M WOODS presents All Means Are Sacred, bringing together works by artists across 15 centuries in a focused examination of reverence, energy and the spirit. Staging an encounter between contemporary and pre-contemporary works, the exhibition will confront the means by which art seeks to transcend, often in unconventional ways, the materials and conditions of its making.

Spanning the entire museum, the exhibition will feature the work of artists Ouyang Chun, Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot, Raoul De Keyser, Olafur Eliasson, Giorgio Griffa, Charles Harlan, Giorgio Morandi, Egon Schiele, Guido van der Werve, Xu Sheng, and Yang Changxu alongside anonymous Indian Tantric drawings, a Northern Renaissance painting by a follower of Hieronymus Bosch and ancient Chinese stone statuary. Time and media are collapsed within this selection, the works – religious and secular alike – unified by an earnest ambition to overthrow ordinary modes of experiencing art to communicate a spiritual truth.

- ⌚ 11 am – 6 pm, multiple dates
- 📍 M Woods: D-06, 798 Art Zone, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

BOOKS



Cartoon Creation from Concept to Finish

From comic strips to graphic novels to animation, here's a workshop for all ages and any level of drawing experience. Learn the process of cartoon creation from a master of the genre, the award-winning Larry Feign, who has published 15 books and whose works have appeared in publications such as *Time*, and the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Der Spiegel* and *Pravda*. Feign will begin with a brief demonstration of how various famous characters are constructed then assign exercises

- ⌚ 2-4 pm, March 26
- 📍 The Opposite House, Bldg 1, Taikoo Li Sanlitun North, Chaoyang

FOODS



Duck Dishes of the North and South

BY WANG YAN

Beijing duck may be the most famous authentically Chinese dish in the world. Its crispy skin, juicy meat and unique dining style have won it worldwide acclaim. Although, Beijing's roasted duck might be China's most famous, duck is used in many Chinese cuisines.

The next most famous might be Nanjing's yanshui duck.

Beijing Duck

It is believed that Beijing duck owes its origin to a style of roast goose that was popular in Europe on festive occasions. It is said that Marco Polo and other travelers brought certain European customs to China and may have introduced the concept of roasting poultry during the Yuan Dynasty (1271 - 1368).

But where Western countries chose to domesticate large birds like geese and turkeys, China has long favored the duck. The fowl has been a favorite of Chinese cuisine since the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420 - 589).

Up until the Southern Song Dynasty (1127 - 1279), ducks were roasted in the area around Jinling, today's Nanjing. Yuan Dynasty rulers moved the capital city to Beijing from Jinling and took the recipe with them, turning roast duck into a Beijing specialty.

The ducks were roasted in a conventional Chinese oven until the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911), when this dish became a delicacy on the imperial menu and were highly regarded by emperors and the nobility.

The ducks used during this period were a special breed known as the White Beijing Duck. And with the new ducks came a new cooking method. Qing chefs would hang the birds over a flame in an open oven, resulting in a second school of roast duck preparation.

Bianyi Fang restaurant uses the original cooking method. The restaurant serves a roast duck that preserves the traditional flavor. The second method is relatively well-known and have been promoted with great success by the Quanju De Restaurant chain.



Photos by b2bhc.com



Photo by hemingcheng.com



Photos by ctrip

Nanjing Yanshui Duck (Nanjing Salty Duck)

The roots of Nanjing's notoriously salty duck are more recent. Some records say its history goes back to the 14th century, but it only made a name for itself during the Qing Dynasty.

Duck meat is typically rich in fat, but not especially greasy. Nanjing Salted Duck prepared shortly before or after mid-Autumn is reputed to taste the best because the ducks are harvested during the peak of sweet osmanthus blooming season.

The dish is often regarded as a dish to share. Locals and tourists alike hit the streets to pick up a Nanjing Salted Duck.

Preparations are extensive, and each salty duck must be marinated in salt for two days to let the flavor sink in. Although the dish is very famous, it is hard to cook well. In the hands of an inexperienced chef, the duck will end up much too salty. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Yanshui Duck

BY WANG YAN

Also known as guihua duck, yanshui duck is a famous dish in Nanjing cuisine. The dish is said to have a history of more than 2,500. This recipe will help you to recreate the famously salty dish at home.



Photo by lyve.com

Ingredients:

- ☐ 2 duck legs
- ☐ 50g salt
- ☐ ginger
- ☐ 3 cloves garlic
- ☐ 2 pcs. star anise
- ☐ 10g prickly ash

The Steps:

1. Clean the duck leg. Use napkin to ensure the leg is completely dry and a toothpick to prick the skin and meat. Massage the salt into the duck.
2. Heat up a wok. Add the salt, prickly ash and star anise to the pan and stir-fry until they turn yellow. Remove the seasonings and set them aside for later use.
3. Place the duck into a container, wrap it in plastic and store it in a refrigerator for 24-48 hours.
4. Heat a pot and add the duck leg, ginger, garlic and scallions.
5. Add two spoons of Chinese cooking wine and boil for 20 minutes.
6. Remove the duck and set it aside. Allow it to cool to room temperature before cutting it into small pieces. Serve at room temperature.

Authentic Food at Nanjing Dapaidang

BY WANG YAN

Nanjing Dapaidang surely makes an impression. From the red lanterns hung high and its large wooden doors, the restaurant is determined to transport dinners back to Nanjing's glory days as capital of the Republic of China (1912-1949).

With more than 10 branch locations in Beijing, Nanjing Dapaidang is popular. It is suggested to make a reservation because the lines can be fierce.

Orders are placed by ticking items off the menu, but it's also fun to pick directly from a village of stalls and pointing towards the mountains of steaming bamboo baskets with your table card in hand. Orders typically arrive at your table within minutes.

The restaurant offers good food at an affordable price. A small plate of artfully cut tofu and sauce costs only 5 yuan. Customers on Dianping recommended diguo xiao gongji (42 yuan). The dish is a tender rooster served in a pot with sesame dressed bread. Customers also recommend the jizhen yeshanjuan soup (28yuan).

Classic Nanjing dishes are also popular orders. The yaxue fensi shaguo (22 yuan) arrives as a mixed bowl of duck blood, pig liver and rice noodles. For desert, jiuniang chidou yuanxiao (6 yuan), a sweet fermented rice bean soup, is highly recommended. ■



Photos by dianping.com

Nanjing Dapaidang

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